

**BARRY COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY**  
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May 7, 2012

Senator Rick Jones  
Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee  
915 Farnum Building  
Lansing, MI

Dear Senators Jones, Schuitmaker, Rocca and Bieda:

Thank you the opportunity to comment on Attorney General Bill Schuette's "VO-4" proposal, reflected as Senate Bill 1109. I am a strong supporter of enacting this bill.

The Bill would mandate longer sentences for those violent felons who have already committed 4 or more felonies during their lives. Violent offenders with long "rap-sheets" deserve long sentences, and the current MCL 769.12 does little to ensure that they receive them. Today, I often have to tell crime victims that "life" does not mean "life." I hope tomorrow that I may tell them that "life" means at least 25 years, for the crimes of rape, kidnapping, murder and terrible assaults.

Corrections costs are always a concern. The costs created by repeat violent offenders who destroy our communities should be of great concern also. No amount of money will create thriving communities, schools and businesses in an environment where a fear of crime dominates.

The current MCL 769.12 was designed to punish the career criminal and protect the citizens of Michigan. Enacting the changes found in SB 1109 will finally put some badly needed "teeth" into our habitual offender laws, and lead to a better Michigan. I am proud to lend my support to SB 1109.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Tom Evans

Barry County Prosecuting Attorney